

OHF Junior Council
Friday, February 17, 2006
Wyndham Bristol Place Hotel - Plaza A

In attendance:

Chair: Karen Phibbs

OHF Representatives: Andrea Pariselli

Members: Charlie Macoun (OPJHL - OHA), Dick Prescott (NOHA), Hugh Riddle (NOHA), Dick Woods (OHA)

Observers: Dave Deyman (GTHL), Brent Ladds (OHA), Dave Deyman (GTHL), Rick Richardson (OHA), Art Yeo (NOJHL)

1. Review of November 2005 Minutes

- No additions or amendments were made

2. Business Arising from Minutes

- Updates will be discussed during the reports

3. NOHA Report (Hugh Riddle)

- In conversations with Art Yeo, it was noted that the League is doing well.
- Interest in the League has been generated through the website
- Fan support has been equal to or, in some cases, better than last year
- Relatively few problems
- The regular season is winding down and playoffs are about to begin - it will be an interesting playoff with seven teams involved
- The League is a little more interesting this year - there is not one team that is far surpassing the others

4. OHA Report (Dick Woods)

- The season is winding down. Playoffs have started at A, C and D level
- There will be a Junior C category meeting in Kitchener next Saturday (February 25) which Dick will be attending. One of the major items that will be discussed is the Canadian Development Model and how it has affected the Cs this year
- It was noted that the well-respected President and Owner of the Trenton Sting, Peter Huff, recently passed away

5. NOJHL Report (Art Yeo)

- Was covered as part of the NOHA report

6. OPJHL Report (Charlie Macoun)

- Playoffs are underway
- Recently a lot of calls have been coming in regarding refereeing - mostly complaints by the coaches and general managers. From the games he has attended, Charlie noted that the Supervisors have been doing a good job
- An application will be coming in from Orangeville for a Junior A franchise
- Crowds are good for the teams who are competitive (e.g. Trenton, Wellington) while attendance drops for the teams that are not as competitive (e.g. Aurora, Bancroft)
- Questioned the possibility of changing the first round set up - currently a best 4 of 7. Other possibilities were suggested such as - making it a best 3 of 5, adding a wild card game, etc. It becomes stressful under the current setup with the lowest caliber teams being asked to challenge the first place teams. They do not have the skill level to win and become frustrated in this environment. Perhaps it would be better to schedule a longer season and cut back on the number of games in the playoffs

7. 2006 Royal Bank Cup

- RBC preparations are ongoing. The operational side of the RBC is fine. There is a need to stay on top of the financial side

8. 2006 Dudley Hewitt Cup

- Karen has spoken to Gary Cooke regarding the hosting for 2006 events. Plans are in place and they are on schedule
- They have booked flights for a team out coming out of the OHF

- More information is available on the official website (<http://www.dudleyhewittcup2006.com/>) which is now up and running. Links to the DHC website can be found on both the CJAHL and OHA websites
- Additional information will follow including details regarding credentials, pictures, what information is required from the teams, etc.
- It was questioned, if an OHF team is attending, has OHF delegate representation to the event been established. At this point, no. *Karen indicated she would follow up with Joe Drago this weekend to determine what plans will be put into place regarding representation.*

9. Hockey Canada Meetings

- Included in Junior Council information package are the bulletins outlining the World Junior A Challenge Bid guidelines for 2007, the summary of the 2005 Semi Annual Meeting, Canadian Development Model Affiliation Interpretations, and Officials Verbal and Written Reports during Playoffs
- Three CJAHL programs of concern over the next year:
 1. There will be two Canadian teams competing in the World Junior A challenge this year - a team from Eastern Canada and a team from Western Canada. Paul Currie, from the Maritime Junior League, was named Director of Operations for the Eastern team and Darcy Rota, from the BC Junior League, will direct the Western team. The next task will be to name the coaches and then bring the rosters together. Event will take place in November 2007 in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.
 - Can't really select players now from the current group because a lot of the players leave to play in universities
 - Although no information on a training camp is available at this time, it is likely there will be one, possibly in August
 - Because it is a major international competition, the coaching staff will be required to attend the POE program for high performance coaches in Calgary this summer. Applications for the coaching positions have already gone out
 2. Need to put together a sufficient number of candidates by the end of March to attend the St. Petersburg tourney. Players should be reminded of the opportunity to participate in this event
 3. Prospects game in Ontario next year - both Peterborough and St. Mike's have expressed interest in hosting the event

10. 2006-7 Minimum Suspension List for Junior Hockey

- A draft of the 2006-7 Minimum Suspension List was provided for review. Revised minimum suspension list as approved by Junior Council is to be taken to the Board for ratification at the April Board meeting
- It was suggested that the date for approval of the Suspension List be changed. Most of the issues or concerns regarding suspensions usually come forward after year end, at the time of the individual Member Partner AGMs. Request was to change the due date so that it would follow the conclusion of the Member Partner AGMs, ideally at the time of the OHF AGM which does occur after all the Member Partner AGMs have taken place. *Suggestion was to take this proposal to the Board.*
- If you have any changes to the Suspension List please advise Karen
- It was questioned whether the penalties for gross misconducts are strong enough. The context under which gross misconducts are assessed is different than what it used to be. If we list all the various types of gross misconducts, we have the ability to differentiate
- In regards to bringing in the NHL rules, a guideline leaning in that direction has been established which has still to be ratified by the Hockey Canada Board. Hockey Canada will likely make that move in May to implement for 2006-7
- Change will make it easier for the referees who work in the Major Junior Leagues to come back to referee at the other Junior levels.
- This change should help to bring consistency to refereeing particularly if the availability of the officials to interpret the rules is there.
- OHL has adapted well to the change to NHL rules. Not all OHL games are utilizing two referees
- The NHL website (www.nhl.com) includes a videoclip that illustrates all the rules and how they are called. It can be accessed off the NHL Rulebook page of their website.

11. Minor Junior Committee

- At the last meeting, a workshop took place to discuss ideas regarding changing the system of AAA in Ontario. The Minors find it difficult determining how to realistically reduce the number of teams and Minor Council will discuss that item at their meeting this evening
- There is no agenda as yet for the Minor Junior meeting this weekend - John and Karen will be meeting with the Officers this evening in regards to the direction of the Minor Junior Committee. An agenda for the weekend's meeting will be determined at that time.

12. New Business

Outlaw Junior A League

- Charlie updated the council on a group who is attempting to establish a Junior A League outside of Hockey Canada jurisdiction. It would be an outlaw league. The organizers have been speaking with all of the low-end teams in the Ontario Junior Leagues and are looking to set up teams in areas where there is no hockey.
- Some of the potential teams mentioned include: Nipissing, Bracebridge, Belleville and Bradford (where the group spearheading the League originates from). They are attempting to establish six teams
- The attraction of the League would be that the organizations could take as many 15 or 16 year-olds or Europeans as they want

Travel Expenses for Junior Council Chair

- OHA had submitted travel expenses to the OHF for Karen to attend a function as Branch Delegate in Yorkton but the expenses were not covered due to the fact that there was no prior approval by the OHF for Karen to attend the function. Brent indicated that it was vitally important that the OHF have their Council director involved in events of this nature
- The request from the OHF was to take the item back to Junior Council for consideration and recommendation

That Junior Council support the ongoing commitment to cover the Junior Council chair's expenses to attend Junior Hockey related functions and activities.

Moved: Charlie Macoun

Seconded: Dick Woods

Carried

OHA Concerns

- The OHA raised some concerns about a particular individual who is known to the OHF as a matter of information. The OHF is aware of the individual; the context of the concern is documented within the OHF office.

Hockey Canada Rule/Regulation Changes

- It was questioned whether it was a Hockey Canada Regulation change year and, if so, is there is a certain due date to submit requests for amendments. As a follow up, it was identified that it is a Hockey Canada Regulation change year. If you have any recommendations for changes to the Hockey Canada Regulations, please submit them to the OHF no later than Friday, March 10, 2006.

Strategic Planning

- The meeting concluded with an in camera discussion led by Rick Richardson in regards to Strategic Planning.

Meeting adjourned